

RICHMOND NEWS-LEADER
26 November 1981

CIA seeking area recruits for jobs abroad

By ANDREW PETKOFSKY

The CIA is recruiting employees in the Richmond area.

In a large advertisement that appeared in The News Leader this week, the government agency said it is "looking for men and women who want a career with a challenge, and rewards to match."

The advertisement said the available jobs require advanced education, "intelligence, skill, initiative... a willingness to take charge (and) the ability to piece together information from many sources...." But the ad did not say precisely what the jobs are.

CIA spokesman Dale L. Peterson said today that the CIA is looking for "operations officers" to gather information abroad.

"We don't use the word agent," he said.

Another agency spokesman, John McCann, chief of the Washington area recruitment office, said "scientific types" and people to work in the National Foreign Assessment Center in Washington also are being sought.

The CIA has been advertising for job applicants in various parts of the country for about two years, Peterson said, because the end of the military draft dried up the traditional source of recruits.

He said the jobs require persons who have had advanced education but also have been through a "maturing experience" of working, especially overseas. While the draft was in effect, large numbers of young persons served in the military, matured, and then went to college. The CIA then would recruit on college campuses among students who had served in the military.

"The people are no longer available on the campuses," Peterson said.

He said the CIA now has to recruit people who have had advanced training in science, foreign languages, mathematics, engineering and other technical fields and have been working for at least a couple of years. To reach those people, the CIA must advertise, he said.

McCann said a similar recruiting advertisement that appeared in The News Leader in August 1980 produced about 125 applications. He said 15 or 20 of those applications were chosen for interviews. As for the number hired, McCann said that information is not the sort the CIA gives out.

The advertisement, which appeared Monday, said the agency is seeking applicants with training in computer sciences, economics, engineering, foreign area studies, languages, mathematics, photographic interpretations and physical sciences. McCann said most of the jobs, especially those in the foreign assessment field, require advanced degrees, such as a master's or doctor of philosophy.

He said that radio recruitment advertisements have been used in Denver, Atlanta and Salt Lake City and that advertisements have appeared in several national magazines and professional journals.

Peterson said the CIA never has had problems in filling its job vacancies, even during the Vietnam war and the Watergate investigations, when the agency was the subject of controversy.

The CIA is "an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action employer," according to its advertisement.